

Pebble Beach Crooners 2025

PCL



2025 Instructions

Peb won the “Shohei” sweepstakes in ‘24, and it carried them in large part to a Western Division crown. Only to get bounced in the semis by a tough Oxnard team of Bums. Relegated to the last draft pick in each round, the Bings will now try to repeat the difficult task of repeating, including the replacement of catcher Willson Contreras, outfielder Jurickson Profar, and #1 starter Merrill Kelly. Pretty tall order in this more balanced league. I’m hoping the team performs better than in the pre-season tourney where their two straight losses saw them score a combined total of 1 run. Reynaldo Lopez and DJ Herz join the starting rotation, and **I hope to enjoy the camaraderie of many head-to-head games.** Good luck to all and thanks for a fun annual meeting, as usual.

Hitting

Starting Lineups:

#1 v Lefties		#2 v Lefties		#3 v Righties		#4 v Righties		#5 v Righties	
DH	Ohtani*	DH	Ohtani*	DH	Ohtani*	DH	Ohtani*	DH	Ohtani*
4	Albies+	4	Albies+	4	Edwards+	4	Edwards+	2	Stephenson
9	Tucker*	9	Tucker*	9	Tucker*	9	Tucker*	9	Tucker*
5	Suarez	5	Suarez	8	Bellinger*	2	Stephenson	3	Arraez*
8	Bellinger*	6	Perdomo+	3	Arraez*	3	Arraez*	4	Edwards+
6	Perdomo+	7	Rosario	7	Winker*	8	Bellinger*	7	Rosario
7	Rosario	8	Bellinger*	5	Suarez	7	Rosario	5	Suarez
3	Arraez*	2	Stephenson	6	Perdomo+	5	Suarez	8	Bellinger*
2	Stephenson	3	Canha	2	Stephenson	6	Perdomo+	6	Perdomo+
	All other Lefty Starters		Peterson, Steele, Weathers, Sale, Snell		Lugo, TrevWilliams, Montas, Cease, Gray, Severino, Taillon, Woo, Webb, PabLopez, Wheeler, Schwellenbach, Keller, Bbrown, Miller, Waldron		All other Righty Starters		Flaherty, Megill, Gallen, Darvish, Stone, Yamamoto, Musgrove, Roupp

Guidelines on Positions:

- **C: Tyler Stephenson** (457 AB) plays all day every day and does not come out. **Nick Fortes** (308ab) is the injury sub and a PH option if you need a **clutch hitter** or for when an **“A” bunter** would make the squeeze play an option to tie the game early or take the lead later in the game.
- **1B: Luis Arraez** (637ab) back again after a solid freshman year campaign. Plays 1B 90%, except when you really need to bat righthanded against a lefty. Does not come out unless we are losing late and your lefty reliever kills lefties. Mark Canha is the one if so. Canha also is an injury sub here or in the outfield, unless it makes more sense to move Bellinger in from CF.
- **2B: Ozzie Albies** (399ab) plays both ways unless you must bat righthanded against a righty starter, and **Xavier Edwards** (265ab) starts against righthanders. Edwards is a real bad fielder – he comes out for defense (Albies) with a lead after 7th (unless Edwards up

versus a righty in the 8th, in which case wait for defense change until the 9th. If losing, live with the bad D. Albies does come out mid-game if we are losing and you switch to a Ry. Albies subs for Edwards if a Ly comes in.

- **SS: Geraldo Perdomo** (337ab) plays all day every day and does not come out. Rosario or Edwards if injury. He bats down in the order, but I will manage usage at home if it gets troublesome.
- **3B: Eugenio Suarez** (571ab) plays all day every day and does not come out, unless late and we are losing and the AB matters and you must bat lefthanded (Hilliard or Winker if so). Rosario is an injury.
- **OF: LF** is covered mostly by **Amed Rosario** (332ab), but **Jesse Winker** (430ab) will also get several starts against selected righty starters. He will also come in if a middle infielder gets injured, or to PH for Rosario late if for defense or if we are losing and you must bat lefthanded. **Cody Bellinger** (516ab) plays **CF** all day every day and only comes out for a PH late if we're losing and your pitcher crushes lefty hitters, and "compare" shows a better righthand option. **Kyle Tucker** (277ab) plays **RF** all day every day and does not come out, except in blowouts. He does have a significant injury risk, which means a Winker/Canha/Rosario sub (after scoping "compare"). **Sam Hilliard** (138ab) is a 5th OF and PH late if you need beef. He can stay in LF if it looks like he will bat again and we are losing. **Mark Canha** (393ab) is a 6th OF sub, and subs also in the IF when multiple IF injuries occur (usually Arraez to 2B and Canha to 1B).
- **DH: Shohei Ohtani** (636ab) plays all day every day and does not come out.

WHEN YOUR LEFTY STARTER EXITS THE GAME BEFORE THE 6TH See above. Generally, status quo if I'm way up, and changes if I am tied or losing.

WHEN YOUR RIGHTY STARTER EXITS THE GAME BEFORE THE 6TH

See above

Injuries: A little work here: With Tucker and Edwards at "5", and Albies and Perdomo at "4", Rosario will need to move to RF and/or come in to the middle infield. That obviates the need for another LF with Winker/Canha/Hilliard as the options ("compare").

Late Defense: Albies at 2B, Hilliard in LF: in the 7th if up 3+, or in the 8th if leading unless the "departer" is due up in the bottom of the 8th and we are only up 1), or in the 9th with any lead. Don't worry about the rest.

MISCELLANEOUS - Game Strategies

- **Pinch Hit Guidelines:** Generally, use "compare". Fortes is a clutch hitter and an "A" bunter for the squeeze. Hilliard for beef.
- **Pinch Run:** Michael Lorenzen is thru "13" if it matters. Not so much otherwise.
- **Typical stealing decisions:** Steal 2nd at **75%; 65%** if we went through the order once and have had trouble getting going; Steal to **3rd at 75%** (but don't make 1st or 3rd out trying for 3B, and don't steal 3B when we are way up).
- **Who to H&R and when:** I like this if the hitter is a "B" or better (after your hold), and a double play threat, and your pitcher has lots o' K's (which become GB advances). Only with no outs.
- **Sacrifice:** At 70+% to lead off an **extra inning**. Otherwise, not really.
- **Squeeze Plays:** Perdomo and Fortes are "A", or Arraez and Hilliard as "B's" if 40% or more and the run ties it in the 6th or earlier, or later if it gives us the lead.
- **Scoring:** Same as your team. Run home at 65%, 60% if tying or leading run, 50% with two outs, 40% if weak hitter or pitcher coming up. If I am down 4 or more, hold the runner.
- **Advancing to 3B:** always try to tag up to go to 3B on a flyout unless the "out" percentage is more than 10%. Advance to 3B on singles at 65% unless it would be the 1st or 3rd out.
- **Trailers:** To second 50% and above, but to third at 65%. Send the trailer only when we are down by a run or tied, from the 7th inning on.
- **Throwing Guidelines:** Cut the throw off from the outfield early in the game unless runner is heading home with a safe chance at less than 55%. Let the throw through even if the runner is as high as 65% with two outs and the 8th or 9th hitter is due up.
- **Defense:** Always get the sure out on Defense Option plays, unless runner represents the go-ahead run and his safe chance is less than 45%. Same with the trailing runners.
- **Intentional Walks:** Use your best judgment. I will do it with 2 outs to get to a much more favorable hitter. I also see lots of "boppers" ("8+8 or more HRs" is a big indicator); so, in key situations I would walk that bopper, but only 7th or later. Doesn't help to walk someone if you have two in a row.

Pitching

Starting Rotation

ROAD GAMES YOU PLAY			
Opp.	Game #1	Game #2	Game #3
BAG	Gilbert	Lopez	Herz
PBC	XXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
SBM	Gilbert	Herz	Lopez
SCT	Gilbert	Lopez	Cabrera
LVB	Gilbert	Lopez	Cabrera
HAW	Gilbert	Puk	Herz
OBB	Gilbert	Herz	Puk
CDS	Herz	Lorenzen	Cabrera
CHI	Gilbert	Lorenzen	Lopez
AGN	Gilbert	Lopez	Cabrera
STL	Gilbert	Lorenzen	Herz
VBS	Gilbert	Lopez	Lorenzen

Divisional Games – ROAD GAMES

Opp.	Game #1	Game #2	Game #3	Game #4
BAG	Lopez	Gilbert	Herz	Lorenzen
SBM	Lopez	Gilbert	Herz	Puk
SCT	Lopez	Gilbert	Herz	Puk

Gilbert (20), Lopez (20), Herz (16), Cabrera (14), Puk (10), Lorenzen (10)

Home Games – I Play

Game #1	Game #2	Game #3
Cabrera	Lopez	Puk
XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Herz	Puk	Lopez
Cabrera	Gilbert	Lopez
Lopez	Cabrera	Lorenzen
Herz	Puk	Cabrera
Herz	Puk	Cabrera
Herz	Lorenzen	Cabrera
Cabrera	Lorenzen	Lopez
Gilbert	Lopez	Cabrera
Gilbert	Lorenzen	Cabrera
Gilbert	Lopez	Cabrera

Divisional Games – Home Games

Game #1	Game #2	Game #3	Game #4
Lopez	Gilbert	Herz	Lorenzen
Lopez	Gilbert	Herz	Puk
Lopez	Gilbert	Herz	Puk

Starters Summary

6-man rotation this year with Puk and Lorenzen each picking up 10 starts to go with their pen availability in the other series. Generally, starters go until dots unless they have given up 4+ runs earlier, or in instances described below. Only Gilbert will complete games (he had 9 last year and has a better card this year) – all others have innings limits. Further Bullpen comments are below.

Starting Pitcher Notes

Logan Gilbert 209 IP	Righty #1 starter. Goes 20 times long and hard. Can complete games since he is a 7-inning starter. Out if dots, unless it's early and I'm getting crushed.
Reynaldo Lopez 136 IP	7-inning max (I will find 4 shorter games at home if it becomes applicable). Out if dots, or before dots in 7 th if you get traffic on the paths that can run AND it's close AND you have a lefty or lefties coming up.
DJ Herz 89 IP	#3 starter and a lefty. Goes 16 times with a 6-inning max , and out before if dots. Possibly out before dots in the 6 th inning if it's a tight situation with lefty masher(s) coming up in a close game.
Edward Cabrera 96 IP	Righty and 14 starts means a 7-inning max (I will find 2 shorter games at home if it becomes applicable). Mostly starts at home, but for SCT/LVB/AGN: out if dots, or out if he's already given up 4+ runs, or in the 7 th in a tight game if his hold factor puts me in a rough spot against your speedster baserunner.
AJ Puk 71 IP	Loogy picks up 10 starts with a 5-inning max . (His remaining 21 innings are reserved for "loogy" situations in the pen). Out if dots or before if 4+ runs yielded.
Michael Lorenzen 130 IP	6 th starter goes 10 times (50-65 innings with the other 65+ in the pen). No inning limit, but I would hate to see him in there late against righty batters in a close game. Out if dots or 4+ runs.

Bullpen Summary

Up to 7 total relievers (at least 6 because Puk and Lorenzen will not both be starting in the same series) provide a total of 410 available innings (Peb pens used a total 240IP in '24 and 239IP in '23). As described below, 170 innings are used in the 7th – 9th in games where I'm winning or it's close, Maton and partial-Puk add 85 innings in the 6th-7th, Law and Lorenzen usually make the needed earlier/moppier appearances.

Setup/Closers	The last 2 innings, and occasionally as early as the 7 th , is by committee. Ideally, up to three relievers are mixed and matched against your late lineup with all 3 called on in both setup and closer situations. Andres Munoz (59 IP...ouch, missed by 1) is the best against righty hitters, Carmen Mlodzinski (51 IP) is better against lefty hitters, and Robert Garcia (60 IP) is the lefty who has good balance and doesn't give up as many longballs. Best judgment here.
Righty mid	Phil Maton (64 IP) is a balanced righty for the 7 th or earlier. Later if the above committee is getting tired.
The Other Lefty	AJ Puk , when he is not already starting in the series, is a good loogy for his remaining 21 against a majority of lefty bats, or to finish an early or midgame inning. Can pitch the 7 th . 1 inning'ish max per series please.
Longman and midgame and/or situationally against lefty batters	Derek Law (90 IP) is the main man, a righty with lots o' innings and he doesn't give up the longballs as much. More fun to avoid strings of righty bats when convenient. Michael Lorenzen , when he isn't already starting in the series, is a second option, especially as a mop.

Have fun!